

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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R 302255Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 088656

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, LA, SW, EOD, GTS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SWEDISH ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

1. ON APRIL 26 SWEDISH FIRST SECRETARY, LARS NILSSON, MET AT HIS REQUEST WITH A DEPTOFF TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LAOS AND POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWEDISH ASSISTANCE THERE. THIS WAS THE THIRD MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. IN EACH CASE, ACCORDING TO NILSSON, HE HAS BEEN ACTING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS THE DEPTOFF GAVE NILSSON BRIEFINGS ON THE SITUATION IN LAOS, INCLUDING REPORTS ON THE GENERALLY EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE AND REASONABLE PROGRESS TOWARD A COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE DEPTOFF HAD ALSO PROVIDED NILSSON WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION  
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IN LAOS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE US AID PROGRAM THERE, USING

MATERIALS FROM THE USAID WASHINGTON LAO DESK. IN THIS CONNECTION DEPTOFF HAD ENCOURAGED NILSSON TO CONSIDER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AS HIGH PRIORITY. AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE AID LAO DESK, THE DEPTOFF NAMED MR. OLAF STROH, SECRETARY GENERAL OF SWEDISH RED CROSS AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE INDOCHINA OPERATIONS GROUP, AS SOMEONE WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF LAO PROBLEMS AND OF USEFUL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

3. AT THE THIRD MEETING, NILSSON OPENED THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING HE HAD TRANSMITTED THE INFORMATION PROVIDED EARLIER TO HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN TURN HAD RESPONDED BY ASKING THAT HE INVESTIGATE THE CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION AND U.S. REFUGEE ASSISTANCE IN GREATER DETAIL. THE DEPTOFF BRIEFED NILSSON ON THE LATEST LAO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND ALSO PROVIDED HIM WITH ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON REFUGEES, INCLUDING NUMBERS, STATUS, AND LOCATION. THE DEPTOFF URGED NILSSON TO CONSIDER MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AS HIGH PRIORITY LAO NEED.

4. NILSSON REPEATED EARLIER CAVEATS THAT HIS REVIEW OF THE LAO SITUATION IMPLIED NO COMMITMENT BY SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONSIDER ASSISTANCE FOR LAOS IN MID-MAY. THE DEPTOFF NOTED THAT MANY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WERE ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR LAOS, INCLUDING THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, DENMARK, AND GREAT BRITAIN.

5. LAO COUNSELOR SOUKPRASEUTH SITHIMOLADA WAS PRESENT AT ONE OF THE EARLIER MEETINGS. HE HAS QUITE LIKELY TRANSMITTED HIS KNOWLEDGE OF POSSIBLE SWEDISH INTEREST IN ASSISTANCE TO LAOS TO LAO EMBASSIES IN LONDON (ACCREDITED TO SWEDEN) AND BANGKOK (WHERE THE SWEDISH EMBASSY IS ACCREDITED TO LAOS) FOR USE IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

6. FOR STOCKHOLM: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO YOU ON SWEDISH INTENTIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO LAOS. WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE TIMING OF CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OR PARLIAMENT ON SUCH ASSISTANCE. (FYI. AS DEPTOFF NOTED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO NILSSON, THE NETHERLANDS IS ONE OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN LAOS. NILSSON SAID IN THIS REGARD THAT SWEDISH-DUTCH RELATIONS ARE CLOSE AND THE NETHERLANDS PRECEDENT MAY BE HELPFUL. END FYI.)

7. FOR BANGKOK: ACCORDING TO NILSSON, SWEDISH EMBASSY BANGKOK MAY SHORTLY SEND AN OFFICER TO VIENTIANE FOR A

FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE SITUATION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED  
IN WHATEVER VIEWS RESULT FROM THAT VISIT.

8. FOR VIENTIANE: WE NOTE THAT SISOUK HAS REFERRED TO A  
COMMITMENT ALREADY MADE BY A SWEDISH OFFICIAL FOR  
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER ? RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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